



**NEW JERSEY
ASSOCIATION OF
ACUPUNCTURE AND
ORIENTAL
MEDICINE**

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Dear Members of the Public Health Committee:

I am writing on behalf the New Jersey Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and all Licensed Acupuncturists in New Jersey.

We whole-heartedly support the title protection legislation submitted by the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. It is of the utmost importance in terms of protecting the consumer and their health.

Consumers have the right to know the credentials of the health care professional who is taking responsibility for their health. The consumer can then make an informed decision about the type of care chosen or indeed, the person performing the treatment.

It is at best misleading to advertise acupuncture and Oriental medical services when there has been no training in the discipline. Further, it can harm the consumer/patient, if the treatment given, is performed by someone who has no knowledge of the Oriental medical paradigm. Furthermore, the current research evidence base demonstrates that acupuncture providers with more comprehensive training perform treatments with fewer side effects. Patients suffer more side effects at the hands of those with minimal training (Bensoussan A, Meyers SP. Towards a safer choice: the practice of traditional Chinese medicine in Australia. Sydney Australia Macarthur 1996. Zhu HZ. Running a safe and successful acupuncture clinic. New York: Churchill Livingstone, 2006).

No one can claim to be a Certified Public Accountant just because they run a cash register or do a bit of bookkeeping. It is unreasonable to allow any health care professional to claim to be an acupuncturist just because they are in the health care field. No one can claim to be "professional" if they practice something in which they have little to no training.

It is in the public's best interest to be able to clearly identify a fully trained practitioner of acupuncture and Oriental medicine, so that informed decisions can be made to procure the best available treatment. The members of the Public Health committee have an obligation to protect the interests of the public and their health. This situation can be remedied by supporting this title protection legislation.

Sincerely,

Candace Sarges, M.Ac. C.A., Dipl. O.M.
President